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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God who rules the raging of the sea, You have created us for Your glory. Today help us to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly.

Bless our Senators in their labors. Unite them in their efforts to find common ground and to work for the good of the Nation. May they seek creative ways of living a life of service that honors You. Guard them from danger and keep them from sin. As You work out Your plan for humanity, inspire our lawmakers with a joy that makes all difficulties seem worthwhile. Spare them from desiring success that focuses on things that pass away and ignores the things that last eternally. Let Your praise fill their hearts today and always.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JACK REED led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 17, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. REED thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, the first half controlled by the Republicans, the second half under the majority's control. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the ethics bill, S. 1. Last night, the Senate invoked cloture on an amendment strengthening the gift and travel restrictions. I understand that several second-degree amendments to the amendment are now pending. It is my understanding there are four. I anticipate that we will be in a position to dispose of any germane second-degree amendments later today and then we will dispose of the underlying amendment. Once the Senate has concluded action on the gift travel amendment and any amendments in relation thereto, there will be a cloture vote on the substitute amendment on which cloture was filed last Friday.

I said yesterday, and I say today, we are going to work through this bill as quickly as we can. We were able to get through the first part of the ethics legislation in good fashion. It is my understanding, once we move to the substitute, if cloture is invoked on that, there are about 24 amendments that are germane as of last night. There were a few other amendments filed. I don't know if they are germane. I have been told by staff that 30, 40 percent of those amendments Senators BENNETT and FEINSTEIN will agree to accept. The others we will take a look at and see if they are campaign finance related and try to work through them the best we can. I am also in contact with my distinguished colleague, the Republican leader, to see if he feels that there are other amendments we need to vote on, and we are working on that. Even if they are not germane, if the distinguished minority leader and I have some belief that they will help movement of this bill, I would be happy to work with him in that regard.

We are going to be in recess today for our respective party conferences from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. If we need to use the whole 30 hours, it would be about 10:30 tonight before we could dispose of the amendment—something like that.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

### AMENDMENTS POSTCLOTURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I will be consulting with my colleagues on the Republican side throughout the morning and at lunch on the issues raised by the majority leader with regard to the disposition of the pending amendments. As he indicated, some of them will be germane postcloture. I will be able to inform the majority

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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